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On 2-23-07  
By Angela Loding  
Angela Loding

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: S-09-5

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: David Hovda et al.

Application No.: 10/799,491

Filed: March 12, 2004

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen

Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 8367

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2007, setting a one-month deadline for reply. Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments set forth below and request favorable action thereon.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.